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After the transaction of the regular business, at which it was resolved to purchase for the library Gray's Synoptical Flora of North America, and a set of the Pacific Railroad Reports, the Club went into session as a class and discussed the subject of "Leaves." A large part of the members being beginners in the study, these classes have been organized for their accommodation. The classes meet weekly, one in Montclair, one in Bloomfield, and the third in Orange.

Montclair, N. J. WALTER M. WOLFE, *Sec'ty.*

§ 29. **Botanical News.**—In a note published in the *Cronica Cientifica* (Barcelona) of Jan. 10th, a writer, Sr. Bofill, calls attention to a recently issued work by Sr. D. Estanislas Vayreda on the "Noteworthy Plants of Catalonia," in which the author asserts that the viscid secretion which invests the internodes of the stem of *Silene crassicaulis*, Willk. and Costa, (as also, to a less degree, those of *S. inaperta*, L., *S. nutans*, L., and a few other species) has the property not only of capturing such insects as come in contact with it (whence the English name "Catchfly"), but also of dissolving the soft portions of their bodies; and that these plants might therefore be considered truly insectivorous. Has it ever been noticed that our more viscid American species of "Catchfly" (*S. Pennsyvanicum*, for example) possess any such digestive properties?

The January number of the *Revue Mycologique*, which now includes in its scope the subject of lichenology, contains articles by the editor on *Rupinia Baylacii;* the *Peronospora* of the Vine; an Unexpected Occurrence of the White Variety of *Cantharellus aurantiacus; Agaricus campestris* and its Numerous Varieties; the Anomalies exhibited by *Agaricus acerbus and equestris;* and a Revision of the "Reliquiœ Libertianæ." Dr. Passerini describes 18 new species of Italian fungi; Baron Thümen contributes a second decade of exotic fungi; and Dr. Müller gives an enumeration of all the Egyptian lichens that are known up to the present time. The remainder of the number is taken up with the bibliography of fungi and lichens. It would prove a great convenience to readers if M. Roumegue̍re should have his *Revue* stitched instead of issuing it, as at present, in loose sheets.

In the February number of the *Botanical Gazette*, Prof. Thos. C. Porter contributes a note on *Viola tricolor* var. *arvensis*, in which he urges that this plant has strong claims to be regarded as a native. In fact, the evidence in favor of such a view seems to be gradually increasing. We know of at least one New York station for this violet whither it is impossible that it could have escaped from a garden. Under the name of *Viola tenella* the plant figures in Dr. Torrey's list of plants collected by Dr. James during Long's Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1820. It was found growing along the Missouri in a district of country which at that early period must have been a wilderness. The other original notes in the *Gazette* are on *Lepidium campestre*, by Rev. S. Lockwood: on *Asplenium Bradleyi*, by Prof. F. L. Harvey: Bursting of the Fruit of *Euphorbia corollata*, by W. C. White; and a Reply to Mr. Meehan's Criticisms, by M. E. Jones. In these notes Mr. Jones modifies his opinion expressed in a former number, that *Malvastrum coccineum* proves poisonous to sheep which eat it.

The question as to how long the seeds of different plants preserve their vitality when buried at considerable depths in the soil is one that has been much discussed but not sufficiently investigated ; and facts bearing on this subject are therefore always of interest. In a recent number of the *Garden* a correspondent gives an instance which came under his notice, in which the seeds of several species of *Solidago* apparently remained dormant for twenty years. The ground had been covered with shrubs and carefully kept free from weeds during that time ; at its expiration the ground was cleared, and two years afterwards it was covered with specimens of *Solidago* three or four feet in height.

In an interesting paper on "Changes in Plant Life on the San Francisco Peninsula," read before the San Francisco Academy of Sciences, Feb. 2d, by Dr. Herman Behr, and published in full in the *Mining and Scientific Press* of Feb. 21st, the author points out the fact that in 1850 there were three original types of landscape which could well be distinguished on the peninsula. After enumerating the plants which characterized these three types, he goes on to state that the latter are now no longer distinguishable, the improvements of a growing city having brought them all to the same level. The original arborescents have been cut down partly for fuel, and partly to make room for houses. Horticulture has replaced them with the conifers of the Sierras, and the evergreens of Australia, The vegetation of the peninsula is at present more Australian than Californian. But it is not only the quick growth of the city, the sudden change of grade, etc., that have disturbed the original equilibrium in nature, for there still exist places enough where an original vegetation could have remained undisturbed, and where it was protected even against the attacks of domestic animals. One of the most powerful agents in the destruction of the original flora is the invasion of foreign plants. Parallel with the artificial introduction of Australian arborescents has come an immigration of herbaceous plants from Europe and Africa, against which the native vegetation has very little power of resistance. "First of all;" says Dr. Behr," I mention *Silybum Marianum*, a native of the Mediterranean region, observed by me the first time in 1854 in California, and in 1848 in South Australia. Wherever it gets a hold of the soil all native vegetation disappears. California is not the only land infested by this thistle. I have witnessed the same invasion in Australia, and have read the statement of my former teacher, Prof. Burmeister, at present in Buenos Ayres, that the same thistle protects, at the time of its vegetation, the settlers against the inroads of the Pampas Indians, as even the wild horsemen cannot cross the immense thickets formed by this plant." Another weed, *Cotula coronopifolia*, does the same work in moist ground as that begun by the *Silybum* in the more arid tracts of soil. This plant is a native of Africa, and made its appearance in California about 1854. This weed has transformed the varied aquatic vegetation of the places infested by it into one monotonous green mass with yellow buttons. The graceful floating *Azolla*, which formerly ornamented the creeks is scarcely to be found any more. Both of these foreigners, which may be called "the coming plants," belong to the Compositae, an order characteristic of the most modern flora. "Now it appears that in the fight for existence the junior sons of creation have a decided advantage; and this accounts for the otherwise inexplicable circumstance that the variety of organisms decreases so perceptibly when we enter the realms of Gymnosperms, vascular Cryptogams, and all those forms of organic life that existed already in the early periods of the earth."

The last numbers received of the *Botanische Zeitung* (Nov. 5 and 6) contain an illustrated paper by F. Hegelmaier "On the Embryogeny and Development of the Endosperm of Lupinus."

In the *Comptes Rendus* of Jan. 12 (p. 58) will be found an interesting and useful paper on the "Evolution of the Inflorescence in the Gramineae," by M. H. Trécul.

The *Journal of Botany* for February has the following table of contents: John Miers (with portrait), by W. Carruthers, F. R. S.; Alabastra diversa, by S. Le. M. Moore; Notes on the Flora of Northamptonshire, by G. C. Druce, F. L. S.; Two Additions to the British Moss-list, by H. Boswell; Two New Bromeliads from Rio Janeiro, by J. G. Baker, F. R. S.; Hampshire Botany, by F. Townsend, F. L. S.; and Notes on the Botany of the British Polar Expedition of 1875-6, by H. C. Hart, B. A.

The *Contemporary Review* for February contains an interesting and instructive article by Prof. St. George Mivart on the "Geography of Living Creatures." It seems rather odd to an American botanist to see *Ampelopsis quinquefolia* classed among trees, as it is in this article; and it is rather curious, too, to see the persistency with which some of our English cousins cling to that genus "Wellingtonia," when they have occasion to refer to our big California trees —the *Sequoiae*.

Hardwicke's *Science Gossip*, which is always interesting to the naturalist, treats of the following botanical subjects in the February number: "Some Probabilities Respecting Organic Species," by W. S. Palmer; "Notes on Phyllotaxis" (illustrated), by H. W. Syers; and "Primroses and Violets," by R. M.

The *American Monthly Microscopical Journal* for February contains an article by Dr. F. Wolle in which he points out the fact that the fresh-water algae are quite often the subjects of pecular transformations in the course of their life-history. To aid the beginner in his studies the author, in this short paper, explains some of the fallacious appearances that are likely to be met with among these cryptogams.

§ 30. **Juncus setaceus,** Rost.—I have received specimens of *Juncus setaceus*, Rost., from Norfolk, Va., collected by Mr. H. P. Worcester. This is, I believe, the most northern authentic station reported for this rush, the Pennsylvania locality of Rostkovius being questioned in Gray's manual. N. L. B.

§ 31. **Errata.**—In the February number, there occurred the following typographical errors, which should be corrected as follows: 1st page, line 17, insert "as if," after "seemed"; line 38, read "evolution"; p. 17 line 15, insert "here" after "we"; p. 22, line 47, for "Tübigen" read "Tübingen"; p. 23, line 29, "substraction", set up thus by the printer in a moment of abstraction, should be "subtraction."